

Our Weekly Sermonette

By Rev. M. Tilmon Tucker.

THE HARPS AND THE WILLOWS.

TEXT: "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; * * * saying sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the Lord's songs in a strange land! If I forget thee, O Jerusalem let my right hand forget her cunning, etc."—Ps. 137:1-5.

This scene was in Babylon, just after the Jews had been carried there in captivity. Before the captivity they had developed their temple worship to a very high point, and especially their sacred songs. They were skilled in the use of the harp and various other instruments which they used in their temple worship. The 150th Psalm is an exhortation to worship by the use of these various instruments. Thus the sacred music of the Jews had come to be known over the civilized world at that time. It was natural therefore that these Babylonians should want to hear some of these world famed songs by their own singers. But the Israelites found that they could not sing there as they could in the temple where the environments were conducive to praise. The temple was gone, their spirits were depressed, their hearts were filled with shame and remorse for the sins which resulted in their unhappy condition, so they could not sing, but hung their harps upon the willows. How suggestive this is. The harp, the means of praise and gladness, hung upon the willow, the symbol for mourning with its weeping limbs and foliage.

There are many good lessons: I.—THEY WERE LAMENTING THE PRIVILEGES WHICH SIN HAD TAKEN AWAY.

How much better it would have been to have recognized their advantages. But this is common to most of our experiences. We do not appreciate our blessings until they are gone.

191 Strange we never prize the music they fill the sweet voiced bird has flown.

192 Strange we never prize the violets till the lovely flowers are gone.

Let us thank God for our churches, our homes, our dear friends and loved ones while we have them, and above all let us not have the remorse as did these Jews that sin has cost us these blessings.

II.—THE WORLD'S DEMANDS FOR CHRISTIAN AMUSEMENT.

These Babylonians wanted to hear

them sing, not to be benefited, but for the pleasure of it and to satisfy their curiosity. This is a common sin of today. People demand that they be entertained when they come to church. They are not willing to hear a simple Gospel and how it saves, but they want to be entertained. And there are some churches and pastors who feel like they must yield to this demand. Hence many services would be better suited for a circus than a church. This is not so common in the South, but even here is a tendency. People demand entertainment and short sermons. Many of our fathers would preach an hour getting the minds of the people to his lines of thought, and then thirty minutes more in a powerful appeal and exhortation, but today one must talk only thirty minutes, and the more jokes and laugh producing matter the better. The Lord deliver us from merely trying to entertain folks.

II.—RELIGION TO BE AT ITS BEST REQUIRES RELIGIOUS ENVIRONMENTS.

They could not sing with the spirit under those conditions that they did up at Jerusalem in the temple. How sad to meet Christians out of whose life all the praise and melody has gone, because they insist on denying themselves of a religious environment such as God has ordained for the development of these "traces." No man can live out of his church as well as he can in it. Neither can he live a happy life when he only attends occasionally. And if he attends he cannot be developing rapidly unless he takes part in the worship.

Among these captive Jews were some of the greatest singers and musicians in the world, but they became so by practice. If we want the joy to come again into our lives let us renew our church relations and go to work for God.

IV.—THE AWAKENED MEMORY.

Notice with what earnestness and fervor they declare their loyalty to Jerusalem when memory awakened. They were unable to grant the request of these Babylonians by singing as they did at Jerusalem, but by the demand and even by their failure memory was aroused and they renewed their loyalty and purpose.

Will we not allow our famished souls to think again about the spiritual Jerusalem, and when memory is aroused, let us return to our place in God's service. These Jews finally returned and rebuilt the temple and the town with necessary fortifications and were a happy people again. Then they sang the songs of Zion with a new meaning. So may we if the music has gone out of our souls. "Return unto me and I will return unto you saith the Lord."

Better Biscuits Baked With

You never tasted daintier, lighter, fluffier biscuits than those baked with Calumet. They're always good—delicious. For Calumet insures perfect baking.

RECEIVED HIGHEST AWARDS
World's Pure Food Exposition, Chicago, Illinois,
Paris Exposition, France, March, 1912.



SNYDER TEACHERS ON HOLIDAY VACATION

Several of the school teachers will leave this (Friday) evening for their holiday outings.
Miss Ball goes to Terrell,
Miss Wilkins to Blanket,
Miss Baines to San Marcos,
Miss Heath to Pecos,
Miss Brady to Granbury,
Miss Klapproth to Midland.

PROF. JOHNSON DISCUSSES PLANS OF CONFERENCE OF EDUCATION OF TEXAS

Superintendent M. B. Johnson of the Sweetwater Schools visited the Scurry County Institute and addressed the teachers in the interest of the Conference of Education of Texas. The Conference had planned for representatives to visit about fifty County Institutes during the week and leading educators over the state were active all at once.

The objects of the Conference are outlined for a comprehensive campaign for the next two years, to pave the way for the enactment of laws for professional and non-political supervision of rural schools, to provide for the choosing of county superintendents by trustees, just as superintendents for city schools are chosen by the school boards. Calling for removal of the 50 cents maximum local tax and for the removal of the two-thirds vote required in the levy of local maintenance tax. Providing that a majority of the tax paying voters may spend whatever amount they please for education.

Providing for rural high schools in every county where desired; for a compulsory attendance law; for adequate appropriations for buildings and permanent improvement for the university and other state schools.

The Scurry County teachers are well in line with the general plans of the Conference.

MISSIONARY MATTERS

The Methodist Missionary Auxiliary will meet in open session at the parsonage at 3:30 to 5:30 p. m. December 29. All members of the church are invited to be present.

FIRE WORKS! BOYS! at Grayum Drug Company.

It is H. M. Blackard and not J. K. who recently moved into the Jones' place in West Snyder. H. M. has recently moved back from near Hermleigh and will hereafter be with the Hardware Store.

NORRIS CHOCOLATES. Best in town at Grayum Drug Co.

Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Hutchison have taken rooms at Mrs. T. J. Faught's.

WILL WORK ROAD BETWEEN SNYDER, IRA AND DUNN

The Signal is informed that a subscription list has been circulated here to raise funds for working the roads between Snyder, Ira and Dunn.

Some persons have promised work, others agree to give money.

We are informed that the petitioners have met with good success.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT—NORRIS' CHOCOLATES. Grayum Drug Co.

MISS BRADY RESIGNS

After Ten Years of Faithful Work in Schools and Social Lines in Snyder.

Miss Daisy Brady who has been teaching the Primary Department in the Snyder Public Schools for several years has this week tendered her resignation, effective now. The trustees have accepted it and Miss Ball who has been teaching the sixth grade at the Central building has been transferred to the Primary Department.

Mrs. Miller has been elected to succeed Miss Ball as teacher of the sixth grade.

She is a lady of culture, a valued member of social, educational and church circles and always true to every call and responsibility to come to her. Deservedly popular with all our people. She is justly reputed to be one of the best primary teachers.

The friends and patrons of the school regret to see Miss Brady leave the school. She has been a faithful worker so long and has proven so efficient, and has so many friends in the school and elsewhere, that her going away is considered with feelings of sadness.

She is a lady of culture, a valued member of social, educational and church circles and always true to every call and responsibility to come to her. Deservedly popular with all our people. She is justly reputed to be one of the best primary teachers. She is a conscientious Christian lady and her life and labors in Snyder have been a blessing to the youth of Snyder and a comfort to the entire community.

NORRIS' EXQUISITE CANDIES MAKE THE NICEST AND SWEETEST XMAS GIFTS you can find. THE QUALITY is the best. THE PACKAGE pleases everyone. Costs no more than the cheaper kind. Grayum Drug Co.

ARNOLD-THOMPSON WEDDING THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Mr. W. P. Arnold of Dallas and Miss Eula Thompson of Snyder were married at 4 o'clock Thursday afternoon at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Thompson in West Snyder. Rev. J. W. Hunt performed the ceremony.

It was a quiet and pretty home wedding, witnessed by quite a large number of friends of the family.

The attendants were Mr. Ed. R. Garner and Miss Jean Griggs.

Miss Lillie Weathers played the wedding march.

The groom is an enterprising young business man of Dallas and the bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Thompson. She is one of Snyder's most lovable young ladies and is held in high regard by all who know her.

The bride wore a blue charmuse brocaded with gold trimmings.

The Signal extends congratulations.

There was a large collection of beautiful and useful presents, attesting the popularity of the bride.

The parlor decorations were narcissus and ferns with candles.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold left on the afternoon Santa Fe for New Orleans and other cities for a tour of ten days after which they will be at home, 805 Colonial Avenue.

FEED INTERNATIONAL MEDICINAL STOCK FOOD TONIC. IT'S THE BEST. WE HAVE IT—FRESH STOCK, IN ALL SIZE PACKAGES AND IN PAILS.

HORNS OF FANTASTIC SHAPE

East African Tribe Have a Peculiar Method of Dealing With Their Oxen.

A tribe of East Africa, called the Suku, hammer and twist the horns of their cattle into all kinds of fantastic shapes. An ox with one horn that points forward and the other backward, writes M. W. H. Beech in "The Suku," is an object of envy and admiration to all; it is called kamar.

They believe that such an ox has exceptional properties. Every fighting man should have his kamar; those who do not possess one are objects of derision. When they prepare to start on a raiding expedition, the men gather the kamars together, bedeck them with ostrich-feathers, and lead them to the river. There the warriors are assembled; they dance round the sacred oxen, flap their hands at them, and kneel on one knee; they hold up their shields in attitudes of defense and brandish their spears, while they utter weird war-cries, which are supposed to excite in the faint-hearted the desire for battle. A captured kamar is a coveted prize, and the Suku slaughter and eat it with much ceremony.

The Suku were originally an agricultural people. In every plantation they build little shelters on piles, whereon sit the women and children whose duty it is to give warning of the approach of elephants, and to scare away birds. Of the members of the tribe who do other than agricultural work there is a saying, "God gave them no sheep, so he gave them cleverness instead."—Youth's Companion.

PRETTY HARD TO EXPLAIN

Little Slip Made by Mr. Jones That He Probably Found It Hard to Square.

Jones usually caught the 5:30 train out of the Grand Central for New Rochelle. This day, however, he had met a friend and remained over to renew acquaintanceship. He was plainly up against it, but finally managed to get the following wire off to Mrs. Jones:

"Missed the 5:30. Don't keep dinner waiting. Will be a little late to-night."

It was long after midnight when he left the train at New Rochelle and ten minutes later before he reached home.

Mrs. Jones met him at the front door.

"You got my message, darling?" he asked, pressing a box of bonbons into her hands.

"Oh, yes!" quickly returned Mrs. Jones, "I got it all right. But I would like to know why you sent a wire at 4:30 telling me you had missed the 5:30 train."

Jones couldn't—Judge.

Does an Injustice to Canines.

"I never could see," cautiously remarked Kipling Daft, who often cogitates deeply, "why a low saloon should be called a 'dogger.' Dogs do not foregather in such places and put their left hind paws up on the footrail and tell Mike to settemupagain. Neither does a dog linger along till a late hour of the night, bragging about how he was just going to hit the feller when he left, or telling funny stories deftly interspersed with blizzards, and then go winding home full of choice liquors, fine cigars and seven kinds of billy-hell. Then, let us not speak of a saloon as a 'dogger,' even if the men who congregate there do at times recite more doggerel than is good for them; but be truthful and denominate it as a 'mannerly,' if nothing will do us but that we must call it out of its name."—Kansas City Star.

Extinction Not Feared.

"Do not believe all you read about the extinction of fur animals," writes a statistician to a Paris paper. "With the exception of a few—seal, chinchilla and American lynx—'fur animals' are no less numerous than they were 30 years ago, when the prepared pelts, now popular for outer garments, were used for lining purposes. The high prices are caused by the increased demand. The fur-bearing animals will not be exterminated because the fashions change. While one animal, temporarily popular, is being hunted the other has time to recuperate. Nature helps also in this way: The over-hunted animal instinctively abandons its habitat, often seeking refuge where the hunter cannot follow."

Knew He Was Safe.

After the League of Public Safety became active in Brooklyn some time ago lectures were delivered in the schools and buttons were given to all pupils. Teachers thought the scheme for safety had been well theorized by the lecturers, but one boy recently showed that everything had not been made plain. In crossing a street he narrowly escaped being hit by an automobile, the driver of which took the opportunity to admonish the lad. "Ah, go on!" yelled the boy; "nothing can hit me!" and he pulled back his coat and revealed his "safety" button.

Sweetly Unreasonable.

"There is no use of trying to deny that women are sometimes a little unreasonable," said the mild-mannered man. "My wife made me do my best to explain about a writ of habeas corpus to her."

"Did you make it clear?"

"I'm afraid not. She went around to a lawyer next day and tried to obtain one that would get me away from the ball game in time for dinner."

WORLD'S LARGEST IRON MINE

Enormous Supply of Rich Ore Is Located at Kiruna, Lapland.

The richest and probably the largest iron ore mine in the world is located at Kiruna, Lapland, in latitude 68½ degrees north, which is about the same as the northernmost boundary of Alaska. The climate is somewhat milder than in Alaska, and these mines were worked the year around. About 1,600 men are employed and the equipment is all of the most modern machinery obtainable. Machine tools for the repair shop, air compressors, and rock drills, and several of the largest steam and electric shovels are of American make. The plant is at present operated by steam power, the coal supply coming from England and Spitzbergen, but the electrification of the mines is in progress, and this power will be used exclusively as soon as the new power plant of the state of Sweden, now under construction at Porviken Falls, is completed. The transmission line is completed and it is expected that the power station will be ready to deliver current early in 1914. One hundred and fifty thousand horsepower will be the capacity of this station, and it will be transmitted over a distance of 150 miles. The state railway between Kiruna and Narvik is being electrified and will be operated from this station. The ore is shipped from Kiruna to Narvik on the Norwegian coast by rail, and from there by water to Germany, a small percentage finding its way to other countries.

BOOSTED UP THE PRICE

When You Come to Think of It the Article Was Worth the Increased Amount.

Hot and stuffy was the auction-room, and packed, too—yes, even packed to its utmost capacity.

Suddenly through the crowd pressed a large, important-looking person and held converse with the auctioneer—converse, low, deep and awe-inspiring.

Then upspoke the auctioneer to the multitude assembled:

"Gentlemen," he said, "I am informed that a pocketbook has been lost in this hall tonight containing \$200 in bank notes."

A great hush fell upon the assembly.

"Yes," continued the custodian of the hammer, "and, owing to other valuable documents it contains, the gentleman will offer £50 to anyone who returns it, while no questions will be asked."

Again a silence, deep and unbroken.

Then a fellow at the rear of the hall spoke up:

"I bid \$51," he said.—Answers.

Because It Was Underweight.

Under the pure food and drugs act, ten cases were recently brought against a New York city firm, which is in the candy business, making a specialty of what is known as "penny goods." All the goods were found to be adulterated. Most of them contained shellac, and some of them also contained arsenic. In every case the firm pleaded guilty. Most of the candies were sold as chocolate candies, but contained little or none of that product. These are the goods bought by small children who have received a cent or two from parents or friends, sometimes intended for the missionary box, but often straying to the candy shop. In only one of the ten cases was a penalty imposed, and in this case, carrying a fine of \$50, was not for selling to little children as chocolate candy a mixture containing arsenic and shellac, but because the package sold to the dealer was marked five pounds and really contained only 4 pounds and 14½ ounces, not enough poison for the money! Truly, in the words of Mr. Bumble, the law sometimes is "an ass."

Mackintoshes Expensive to Make.

Mackintoshes are made of cloth coated with rubber. It is ninety years since Charles Mackintosh of Glasgow took out his patent for the cloth that has ever since borne his name. The Mackintosh is a more expensive garment than the raincoat because of the high cost of the materials employed.

The rubber used has first to be purified by maceration in water at an expense proportionate to the amount of impurity present, and it has then to be converted by use of a solvent into a dough. In this plastic form the rubber has to be spread upon the cloth, layer after layer, by repeated passages through the spreading machine. The fabrics used have to be specially selected, and, in view of the deleterious action of rubber, have to be warranted free of all but the minutest trace of grease.

Sign From Providence.

The Dyak who will argue that because his grandfather died after climbing a tree neither to climb trees if they wish to live and enjoy health, recalls the "dour" old Scot who had steadfastly refused to insure his fleet of trading ships. "Na, na," he'd declare, "the Almighty has favored me, an' I've no need o' insurance. No a ship ha' I lost in thirty year." Not long afterwards practically his entire fleet was wrecked in one of the worst storms in history. A friend, knowing of the trade which the old man had had, and of the value of the name alone, then offered to build new ships and take the ruined man in with him. "Na," he declared with gloomy solemnity, "Providence gied me a sign that I'm na' to engage in the shipping again."

TURKEYS!

I have a number of full blood Bronze Turkeys to sell for Stock purposes. 14 cents a pound. Toms 18 to 20 pounds, Hens 12 to 14 pounds at 7 months old. Have taken blue ribbon at two fairs. See

CL. JONES.

CHRISTMAS FRUITS, CANDIES AND NUTS.

Have a complete line of Holiday fruits, candies, nuts,

GIVE HIM A NICE BOX OF CIGARS appreciated more than anything else you could think of. COLD DRINKS, in fact everything in an up-to-date confectionery.

NG'S CONFECTIONERY